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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0013
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01529

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, GE, WB
SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON GDR-SOVIET RELATIONS AND INNER-GERMAN ISSUES

REF: BONN 1339

1. SUMMARY: IN TALK WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 25, UNOFFICIAL EAST GERMAN EMISSARY VISITING BONN DISCUSSED ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN (REFTEL), GDR-SOVIET RELATIONS AND INNER-GERMAN ISSUES. A WEST GERMAN SOURCE FRIENDLY WITH THE EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US OF LATTER'S CONTACTS WITH WEST GERMAN POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS IN BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR REP SPENT MOST OF LAST WEEK IN BONN SEEING FRG POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS. AMONG OTHERS, HE MET WITH FDP INTERIOR MINISTER AND PROSPECTIVE FDP CHAIRMAN
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GENSCHER, MINISTER BAHR, AND STATE SECRETARY GRABERT.

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ACCORDING TO WEST GERMAN SOURCE WHO IS CLOSE TO GDR VISITOR, GENSCHER TOLD EAST GERMAN THAT FDP WOULD NOT MOVE TO RIGHT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP AND THAT NO CHANGE IN FDP COALITION WITH SPD WAS ENVISAGED; EVEN AFTER 1976, FDP WOULD REMAIN TIED WITH SPD. EAST GERMAN REP WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THESE ASSURANCES SINCE GDR LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY FELT CONCERNED THAT ANY CONCESSIONS IT MIGHT MAKE TO PRESENT BONN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE USELESS IF THAT GOVERNMENT WERE NO LONGER IN POWER AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS.

3. ON GDR-SOVIET RELATIONS, EAST GERMAN REP WAS SURPRISINGLY BITTER. QUESTIONED ON THE EAST GERMAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN, HE SAID THIS PROBLEM WAS ENTIRELY ONE CREATED BY THE SOVIETS WHO WERE USING THE GDR AS A FRONT. THE GDR REP'S OTHER COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE ARE IN REFTEL.

4. EAST GERMAN REP THEN TOOK OFF IN LONG DIATRIBE AGAINST SOVIET GOUGING OF GDR IN ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL FIELD. HE CHARGED THAT SOVIETS HAD CUT BACK SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION ON THEIR SUPPLIES OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS TO EAST GERMANY. THEY HAD ALSO RAISED THE PRICE OF ENERGY QUITE DRASTICALLY SO THAT THE GDR WAS NOW HAVING TO DIVERT SIGNIFICANT FUNDS TO COVER THESE UNEXPECTED COSTS. IN BRIEF, THE GDR REP EXPRESSED WHAT HE SAID WAS A GENERALLY SOUR FEELING IN EAST BERLIN TOWARD THE SOVIETS.

5. GDR REP SAID THERE WAS SERIOUS IRRITATION IN EAST BERLIN ABOUT THE REPORTED SOVIET OFFER TO THE FRG OF ENERGY FROM FOUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WHICH WOULD BE BUILT BY THE SOVIETS, WITH FRG FUNDS, IN THURINGIA, PART OF EAST GERMANY. THIS OFFER WAS REPORTEDLY MADE BY THE SOVIETS DURING THEIR TALKS ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN BONN IN MID-JANUARY (BONN 1329). GDR REP SAID THE GDR HAD BEEN CONSULTED BY SOVIETS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL BUT IN A HIGH-HANDED MANNER. HE SAID THE SOVIET MOVE WAS REGARDED IN KNOWLEDGEABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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GDR CIRCLES AS A REAL SLAP AT EAST GERMANY. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GDR REP DID NOT SAY SO, HE IMPLIED HE FELT SOVIETS WERE IGNORING EAST GERMAN SENSITIVITY OVER BEING CONSIDERED SOVIET PUPPET, A CHARACTERIZATION GDR HAS LONG SOUGHT TO SLOUGH OFF. END COMMENT.)

6. EAST GERMAN REP DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE IMPACT HE THOUGHT THE NEW SOLZHENITSYN BOOK WOULD HAVE IN THE

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GDR AND IN EE GENERALLY. AS A PROFESSOR, HE WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EAST GERMAN YOUTH: HE THOUGHT THE EFFECT OF THE BOOK ON THEM WOULD BE "EXPLOSIVE", ANALOGOUS TO KHRUSHCHEV'S REPORT ON STALIN AT THE 20TH CPSU PARTY CONGRESS IN 1956. HE SAID EAST GERMAN STUDENTS WERE ALREADY SKEPTICAL ABOUT MARXISM-LENINISM AND THE

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NEW BOOK, WHICH WOULD BECOME QUICKLY AVAILABLE VIA HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA, WOULD REALLY SHAKE THEM. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WERE IN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION SINCE THEY TOO PROBABLY RECOGNIZED THE DANGER OF THE BOOK BUT NOW COULD DO NOTHING TO SOFTEN ITS IMPACT.

7. CONCERNING THE DOMESTIC SCENE IN THE GDR, EAST GERMAN REP SAID IT WAS STILL DOMINATED BY HARDLINING IDEOLOGUES. THE EMPHASIS ON IDEOLOGICAL SEPARATION FROM THE FRG CONTINUED APACE, AND HE CONFIRMED A RECENT FRG PRESS REPORT THAT THE WORD "GERMANY" WOULD SOON BEGIN

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TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE REMAINING TITLES AND PLACES WHERE IT STILL SPPEARED IN THE GDR. HE ALSO FORESAW CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE GDR CONSTITUTION OF 1968 WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE REFERENCES TO "GERMANY". THE WORD WOULD BE REPLACED BY "GDR", THUS STRESSING THE SEPARATENESS OF EAST GERMANY.

8. COMMENT: EAST GERMAN EMISSARY, WHO WAS VISITING
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BONN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MID-1973, WAS UNUSUALLY OUT-SPOKEN IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE SOVIETS IN HIS TALK WITH EMBOFF. WE UNDERSTAND HE DID NOT VOICE THESE VIEWS IN HIS TALKS WITH FRG OFFICIALS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT HIS MOTIVE WAS: IT VERY WELL MAY HAVE BEEN AN EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL ANGER AT THE WAY THE GDR HAS BEEN TREATED. GIVEN HIS PRIDE IN GDR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THIS MAY BE THE MOST REASONABLE EXPLANATION. HE REPORTEDLY MADE THIS VISIT TO BONN AT PREMIER SINDER-MANN'S BEHEST , IN ORDER TOGAUGE THE POLITICAL OPINION IN THE FRG, AND PLANS TO COME AGAIN IN MARCH. THIS IS AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT SINCE IT IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD OF SINDERMANN'S PLAYING A ROLE OR AT LEAST TAKING AN OFFICIAL INTEREST IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS.
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